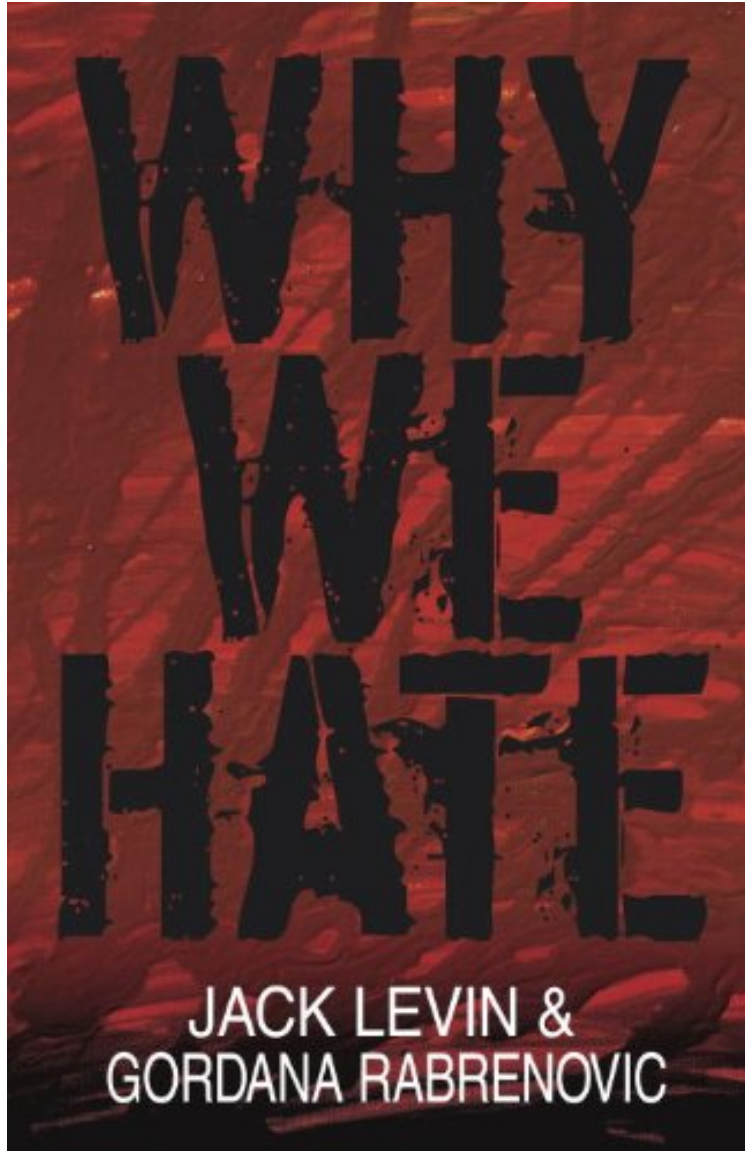


(Get free) Why We Hate

Why We Hate

Jack Levin, Gordana Rabrenovic
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Jack Levin, Gordana Rabrenovic : Why We Hate before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why We Hate:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book was thoroughly painful to read at times By Jamie C This book was thoroughly painful to read at times. Many times the authors make broad accusations towards specific types of people based on actions - for example, all people who listen to metal are Satan worshipers, and people who wear flags on clothing typically have worse attitudes towards Middle Eastern people. It was written shortly after 9/11 and as

such feels a bit dated in regards to overall perceived attitudes. Despite its flaws it was a useful look into hate, providing many possible motivations for hate crimes. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By Leo Coale Fine scholarly fact-filled but not sure the basic question can really be answered. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This is a 5 star book By Henrik Lenard Written in the painful aftermath of the September 11 Attack on America, *Why We Hate* reminds all of us that anyone can become an innocent victim of hate. Hate cuts across cultural, racial, gender, national boundaries. In the first chapter, the book's authors give an excellent overview of the changing meaning of the term "hate" since the 1980s. In its common usage, the term has shifted from its original meaning "an intense dislike" and has instead come to be associated with hostile feelings toward the members of some group of people based on race, religious identity, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, or disability status. Due to this transformation of meaning, hate has become a useful way to interpret criminal acts in which the underlying motive involves hostile or biased behavior such as racism, sexism or xenophobia. Levin and Rabrenovic explore how prejudice and stereotype fueled by hatred can spur inter-group conflict. The two sociologists attempt to explain why hostile sentiments emerge between groups and the circumstances under which this hostility leads to violence. Simple but fundamental questions as to whether human beings born with a propensity for hate and violence are examined scientifically. The authors conclude that hating "the other" is learned behavior rooted in the environment, in psychological factors, and in the socio-economic characteristics of society. As it is highlighted clearly in the book hate also pays off in many ways for those who use it: Thus, "violence has benefits - psychological, social, and economic - for those who embrace hostile and vicious attitudes toward those who are considered different." *Why We Hate* provides us with a myriad of examples of the expression of hate from around the world--from the streets of Jerusalem through the long-term religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland to the stereotype-based racial offenses in the United States. Such examples are of invaluable importance for understanding the mundane character of hate violence as it differs sharply from depictions in movies or television series. The authors demystify hate violence tremendously and then offer undeniable evidence that "ordinary people" frequently play a major role in the most horrendous acts of hate violence under specific conditions. The deportation of Jews, Roma, Slavs, homosexuals, and mentally deficient people during the Second World War or the massacre in Bosnia a decade ago suggest strongly that seemingly harmless or trivial acts like hate speech, political propaganda, and pervasive stereotypes may over time escalate into large scale ethnic violence. Besides exploring the large variety of factors that cause conflict, the book also sheds light on the growing levels of impersonality and indifference as one of the precipitants of hate in our modern society. The authors discuss the role of the mass media in forming the basis of a hostile mindset in future generations of citizens and argue that the producers of popular culture have a major responsibility for filtering out hateful imagery. The book does not leave the reader without some important resolutions. Just as all of us may be harmed by hate, we ordinary people hold also the key to provide effective solutions. Real collaboration on the community level, peaceful civic efforts, women's organizations, cultural tolerance, and more democratic leadership are only a few examples recommended by Levin and Rabrenovic concerning how to combat hate violence in our social environment. The book provides an excellent overview for college students and intelligent laypeople, but will also be useful for scholars interested in learning about recent developments in the scientific inquiry into the roots of hate and violence.

In this in-depth look at the most troubling aspect of human nature, a prominent, nationally recognized criminologist, who is a leader in his field, and a respected sociologist seek to explain why hate exists and offer practical methods for creating a more peaceable society. Are we born with a propensity to hate, or is it something we learn? Does educating people necessarily reduce hate? Looking at biological, psychological, and cultural factors, Drs. Levin and Rabrenovic investigate the evidence for hate as an inborn trait, as learned behavior, and as a reaction to envy, frustration, or the need for belonging, control, and authority. The topics include the media's role in contributing to hate, anti-Americanism, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim sentiments, domestic terrorism, and "organized hate" in the form of white supremacist and civilian militia groups. Finally, in surveying the many trouble spots around the world where hate is manifest, they describe a series of inspiring situations that show surprising cooperation between ethnic groups who have transcended hate, and the authors explain how they achieved it. Both enlightening and insightful, this momentous and timely work offers hope that civilized human beings can come to grips with an age-old problem.

From Publishers Weekly The title of this book lacks a question mark, but it needs one, because sociology professors Levin (*The Violence of Hate*, etc.) and Rabrenovic (*Community Builders*) ask far more questions in this hollow book than they answer. The project they have outlined, one made more immediate after September 11, is to understand hatred and how that hatred so often leads to violence. Unfortunately, the project becomes mired in analytical quicksand. The problem is one of approach, and the authors include far too many isolated incidents and long-standing geopolitical disputes to offer a cohesive argument about, or prescriptions for, the admittedly complex nature of hatred. Rather than careening from instance to instance to diagnose the apparent pandemic of hatred (in the space of two pages, the authors move from Nazi Germany to violence against females in Uzbekistan and the anti-Semitic graffiti of

disaffected youth), Levin and Rabrenovic would have done better to use fewer examples and offer more analysis to yield more valuable conclusions. Instead, they dance around the role in hatred of fear, revenge, evolutionary psychology and other factors. Also disappointing is the authors' tendency to oversimplify otherwise valid causes of hate and prescriptions for it with statements such as "[L]ike attracts like. When it comes to their peers, human beings seem almost universally to be predisposed to prefer being among people like themselves" and offer such advice as "Those who are victimized should seek help from the proper authorities, and they should act accordingly." Noble and worthy statements, but the authors' project proves unwieldy within the confines of this slim yet sadly inelegant volume. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist

The 9/11 terrorist attacks have fed into fears that Americans are hated by others abroad and have prompted questions about the genesis of that perceived hatred. Why do people hate to such an extent that they will commit violence? Criminologist Levin and sociologist Rabrenovic explore hatred, whether it is inborn or learned behavior, what triggers it, and how it can be curbed. Using research, news reports, and anecdotes to illustrate continued discrimination against and hostilities toward various minorities, the authors examine how hatred is provoked by envy, frustration, or the need to control. They examine the rising anti-Muslim feelings in the wake of the terrorist attacks, America's troubled history of hatred toward blacks and Jews, and ethnic hatred that has spurred continued violence in nations around the world. They note that when hatred is widely shared in a society, it becomes part of the culture. The authors examine the forces that cause nations, and individuals, to capitulate to hatred and the courage it takes to resist it and work toward peace. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A well-written, well-researched, and disturbing study ... a compelling read and research tool..." -- Gary Fields, Wall Street Journal crime reporter "Provocative and well-written, this book is recommended for all public and academic libraries." -- Library Journal "an excellent and timely analysis of the roots of hatred ... valuable insights in dealing ... with terrorist threats..." -- Sen. Edward M. Kennedy